GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:26
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001
SLOW PROGRESS IN LITERACY
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an exhaustive study carried out by the Centre for Development Studies has revealed that the progress made in India in literacy is very slow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in several States, the literacy rate is below thirty per cent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to wipe out illiteracy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.7.2001 ASKED BY SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI.

No study relating to Progress made in literacy on all India basis has been conducted by the reputed Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, founded by Prof. K.N. Raj.

The Census 2001 (Provisional Population Totals), indicate that India has made significant progress in the field of literacy during the last decade. The literacy rate has registered an increase of 13.17 percentage points, from 52.21 percent in 1991 to 65.38 percent in 2001. This is the highest rate of increase for any decade since independence. State wise literacy rate for 1991 and 2001 is Annexed. This indicates that currently there is no state in India where the literacy rate is less than 30 percent.

National Literacy Mission had received the prestigious Noma Literacy Award in 1999 for outstanding efforts in spreading literacy, creating awareness and demand for literacy. UNESCO has now decided to give Honourable mention of Noma Literacy Prize to Mahila Samakhya Programme for the year 2001. Mahila Samakhaya Programme builds capacities among groups of women and contributes towards empowerment of women in rural areas, particularly from socially and economically marginalized groups.

A new Scheme of " Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" incorporating all existing Schemes and Programmes in Elementary Education Sector has been launched. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a holistic and convergent approach to implement universalization of Elementary Education in a mission mode with a district focus. The goals of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are as follows:

i) All 6-14 age children in school/ Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) center /bridge course by 2003.

ii) All 6-14 age children complete five year primary education by 2007 and

iii) All 6-14 age children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.

iv) Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;

v) Bridge all gender and social gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.

vi) Universal retention by 2010.

The approach is community−owned and village education plans prepared in consultation with Panchayati Raj Institutions will form the basis of district elementary education plans. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will cover the entire country with a special focus on educational needs of girls, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other children in difficult circumstances. All districts will be covered under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by the year March, 2002.

National Literacy Mission seeks to attain full literacy i.e. sustainable threshold level of 75 percent by 2005. It seeks to achieve this goal by imparting functional literacy to non- literate in 15-35 age group. Steps taken to give greater thrust to remove illiteracy include revision of National Literacy Mission (NLM) parameters andenhancement of financial norms, integration of the phases of Total Literacy and Post Literacy, delegation of powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities, enlarging the scope of Continuing Education, strengthening of Jan Shikshan Sansthans and extending their activities in rural areas, revitalizing State Resource Centres for preparation of better teaching learning materials and improved quality of training.

ANNEXURE

LITERACY RATES

Sl.No.	States/Uts	1991	2001
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.6	54.74
2.	Andhra Pradesh	44.1	61.11
3.	A & N Island	73.0	81.18
4.	Assam	52.9	64.28
5.	Bihar	38.5	47.53
6.	Chandigarh	77.8	81.76
7	Chhatishgarh		65.18
8.	Delhi	75.3	81.82
9.	Daman & Diu	71.2	81.09
10.	D & N Haveli	40.7	60.03
11.	Gujarat	61.3	69.97
12.	Goa	75.5	82.32
13.	Himachal Pradesh	63.9	77.13
14.	Haryana	55.8	68.59
15.	Jharkhand		54.13
16.	Jammu & Kashmir		54.46
17.	Karnataka	56.0	67.04
18.	Kerala	89.8.	90.92
19.	Lakshadweep	81.8	87.52
20.	Mizoram	82.3	88.49
21.	Maharashtra	64.9	77.27
22.	Madhya Pradesh	44.2	64.11
23.	Manipur	59.9	68.87
24.	Meghalaya	49.1	63.31
25.	Nagaland	61.6	67.11
26.	Orissa	49.1	63.61
27.	Pondicherry	74.7	81.49
28.	Punjab	58.5	69.95
29.	Rajasthan	38.5	61.03
30.	Sikkim	56.9	69.68
31.	Tamilnadu	62.7	73.47
32.	Tripura	60.4	73.66
33.	Uttar Pradesh	41.6	57.36
34.	Uttaranchal		72.28
35.	West Bengal	57.7	69.22
INDIA		52.2	65.38

+ Census was not held in Jammu & Kashmir in 1991.